

Message Text

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SUBJECT : GUINEAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEETING

1. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION (CNR) HELD ITS SECOND MEETING THIS YEAR IN CONAKRY FROM JULY 4-6. A THIRD MEETING WAS ANNOUNCED FOR OCTOBER. CNR IS COMPOSED OF ALL SENIOR PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL, AND HEADS OF MASS ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE. THIS MEETING WAS IN FOUR STAGES:

A. THE PRESIDENT'S OPENING SPEECH, WHICH DISCUSSED LIBERATION OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES (SEPTIL), THE NEW STATE COMMITTEES (TO COORDINATE FOREIGN AID) AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, AND THE CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION;

B. REPORTS OF PROVINCIAL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION;

C. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS PREPARED BY A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT ON THESE SAME ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS. (TEXTS NOT YET AVAILABLE);

D. THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSING SPEECH.

2. CLOSING SPEECH, SUMMING UP WORK OF CNR, WAS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO REVIEW OF KEY AREAS OF GUINEA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, REFORESTATION, CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL DAMS, AND PRODUCTION OF HONEY). AS UNCLASSIFIED

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TESTIMONY TO HIS DETERMINATION THAT GUINEA BECOME SELF-

SUFFICIENT IN FOOD, PRESIDENT TOURE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT GUINEAN GOVERNMENT WILL NO LONGER IMPORT RICE OR SEED AFTER 1974. PRESIDENT ALSO SAID THAT IMPORTED FERTILIZER WOULD ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE MAKING USE OF LOCAL SOURCES OF MANURE AND WHERE PRODUCTION WAS SUFFICIENTLY HIGH TO JUSTIFY FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS.

3. OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS TOURE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT GUINEANS SWITCH FROM PRODUCTION OF RICE AND FONIO TO PRODUCTION OF CORN AND NEBE. TOURE HELD THAT YIELDS FROM CORN AND NEBE WERE LARGER AND THAT THEY DEPLETED THE SOIL LESS. IF TOURE'S RECOMMENDATION BECOMES POLICY, IT COULD BRING ABOUT A RADICAL CHANGE IN GUINEAN AGRICULTURE AND EATING HABITS. TRADITIONALLY, RICE AND FONIO HAVE BEEN THE PREFERRED FOOD STAPLES.

4. MAIN EMPHASIS THROUGHOUT CNR WAS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, INCLUDING A CLOSE LOOK AT "AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BRIGADES", SIX MONTHS AFTER THIS SYSTEM WAS ADOPTED BY PARTY LEADERSHIP. DESPITE SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES IN RECENT MONTHS AND PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DROUGHT, THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS ONE OF REDEDICATION TO AGRICULTURAL POLICIES WHICH HAVE BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIMARY PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

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